Sachal's Urs begins today

KARACHI, Dec 31: The 177th Urs of Hazrat Sachal Sarmast, a great saint and Sufi poet of seven languages, is being held from Friday at Daraza Sharif, at his shrine near the Ranipur Railway Station along the Ranipur-Gambat Road in Khairpur Mirs district, Sindh.

This has been announced by the Khalifa, Inayatullah Mughal, in a press statement issued here on Thursday.

According to the programme, the Alam ceremony would be held at 4.30 p.m. on Friday followed by Ghusil (holy bath) and Chadar (floral wreath laying) ceremonies at 9 a.m. the next day.

Devotees, who have already started pouring in from all over the province as well as other parts of the country and abroad, would converge on the shrine and offer Asr and Maghrib prayers at the Daraza Sharif Mosque.

The Takht (crowning) ceremony of Sajjada Nasheen would be held at 8 a.m. on Sunday.

Our Khairpur correspondent adds: Sindh Governor, Lt. Gen. (rtd) Moinuddin Haider, will formally inaugurate the Urs celebrations by laying a floral wreath on the Mazar of the saint on Sunday.

The other programmes organized on the eve included Mehfil-i-Sama, a literary conference, the traditional game of Malakhra and Mushaira.

Hundreds of thousands of devotees, including leading figures in political, social and religious organizations, turn up every year to participate in the programmes and attend the ceremonies at Daraza Sharif.

The DC of Khairpur has announced a local holiday on Jan 4.